

strength, their faith, and for their resolve to move forward in the face of overwhelming odds to build a better Oklahoma and a greater America.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 184.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1130

JUDGE EMILIO VARGAS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1072) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 West End Street in Goliad, Texas, as the "Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1072

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF JUDGE EMILIO VARGAS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 West End Street in Goliad, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this meaningful legislation honors Emilio Vargas, a committed social advocate in south Texas. H.R. 1072 designates the postal facility in Goliad, Texas, as the Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building. I am pleased to join with all Members of my home State of Texas as a cosponsor of H.R. 1072.

Judge Vargas worked at the Department of Human Services as a caseworker directly helping citizens in need for 28 years. He also served as a trustee on the Goliad Independent School District Board, and for the past 10 years he has been a justice of the peace for Goliad County, which in Texas is an elected position in which one earns the title "judge."

I know the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) feels strongly about the contributions of Judge Vargas, and I congratulate my colleague for advancing H.R. 1072 on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 1072, which, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) has said, has the unanimous support of the whole Texas delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, the 32 members of the Texas delegation.

H.R. 1072 is a piece of legislation that will name the post office in Goliad, Texas, after a great American, a great Texan, Judge Emilio Vargas. Judge Emilio Vargas is a first-generation American who was born in Goliad.

As a child, he attended segregated schools because of his Hispanic background. Despite that, he went off to Bee College, graduated, and then he volunteered, joined the American Air Force where he served as an airman. After serving his country, he went home and focused on improving the lives of his people in the community.

During the 1960s, Judge Vargas was active in the civil rights movement and worked to eliminate the poll tax in Texas. He worked to increase Hispanic participation in government and focused on getting an educated population in his community. For 14 years he served in the Goliad Independent School District Board of Trustees, where he focused on education. He believed in the words of President John F. Kennedy when President Kennedy said the progress of a Nation can be no swifter than the progress of its educational system; and he worked hard to make sure that students could go to school, go to college, and become good citizens and become part of the American Dream.

I stand here with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) in support of this particular bill, H.R. 1072, and ask that we name the post office in Goliad after this great American, great Texan, Judge Vargas.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1072, a bill to name the post office in Goliad, Texas, in honor of Judge Emilio Vargas.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), for their assistance in moving this legislation to the floor prior to the Cinco de Mayo celebration. I also thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) as well as four other Members of Congress, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) for their kind words on behalf of this legislation to name this Federal building for an outstanding citizen.

Judge Vargas is a first-generation American who was born in Goliad, Texas. As a child, he attended segregated schools because of his Mexican heritage. Yet his father and mother always taught him to be proud of being an American. He took this lesson to heart and after graduating from Bee College, he volunteered and joined the Air Force where he served as an airman. After leaving the Air Force, he returned home and spent the rest of his life working to improve the lives of the people in his community of Goliad.

During the 1960s, Judge Vargas was active in the civil rights movement and worked to eliminate the poll tax in Texas. Since then, he has fought to increase Hispanic participation in government at all levels.

Judge Vargas understands the importance of developing an educated population. For 14 years, he served on the Goliad Independent School District Board of Trustees. During his tenure, the Goliad School District was voted one of the 10 best school boards in Texas. Because of his commitment to quality education, numerous students from Goliad have gone to prestigious colleges and universities, including the U.S. military academies.

For over 28 years, Judge Vargas served with the Texas Department of Human Services as a caseworker, distinguishing himself for helping the indigent and vulnerable in a six-county region. He worked with a Job Corps program helping to train new workers and with the surplus commodity programs feeding hungry families.

For the past 10 years, he has served as the justice of the peace for Goliad County and for 9 years was a reserve deputy for the Goliad County Sheriff's Department.

In addition to his military, his public and civic service, Judge Vargas has also dedicated a large part of his life to the preservation and celebration of Goliad's rich heritage and historical significance. For my fellow colleagues who may not be aware, Goliad, Texas, is the birthplace of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza. General Zaragoza is a Texas-born hero who on May 5, 1862, led his Army of 4,000 Mexican soldiers to defeat 1,000 of Napoleon's men. This military victory is credited as the action that turned the tide of the French-Mexican War in Mexico's favor.

To honor General Zaragoza's memory and heroism, citizens throughout Texas and Mexico celebrate May 5 every year as the international holiday of Cinco de Mayo. The city of Goliad and her citizens also played a significant role in the war for Texas independence. The massacre at Goliad of Colonel James Fannin and 342 of his troops who had surrendered to General Santa Ana made "Remember Goliad" as important a rallying cry for Texans in their struggle for independence as "Remember the Alamo."

As a member of the Zaragoza Society for over 45 years and as chairman for at least a decade, Judge Emilio Vargas has worked to bring national recognition to Goliad's historic significance in Mexican history, and Texas and U.S. history. He has participated in numerous cultural exchanges with Mexico and has been awarded the Premio Ohtli Award by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his outstanding work in fostering better international relations between the United States and Mexico.

In closing, I often have heard Judge Emilio Vargas say no mission is too difficult and no sacrifice too great. Judge Vargas has truly lived by these words as he has dedicated his life to the people of Goliad. I can think of no better way to honor this distinguished service to his community than by naming the Goliad Post Office in his honor. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I simply want to commend and congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his outstanding recognition and sensitivity and in raising awareness relative to the contributions of local residents of his congressional district. People who would otherwise never be heard of or heard from, he takes the time to highlight their accomplishments and their achievements. I commend the gentleman for it, join in full support of this legislation, and urge its swift passage.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my South Texas colleague, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, in asking the House to pass H.R. 1072 to name the Post Office in Goliad, Texas, after Judge Emilio Vargas.

A child of our times, Judge Vargas, a first-generation American, was born in Goliad and attended segregated schools because he was Mexican. He overcame the disadvantages inherent in segregation by graduating from Bee College and serving in the U.S. Air Force.

After his service, he came home to spend his life laboring to improve the lives of South Texans. During the 1960s, Judge Garza was a civil rights pioneer. He fought the evil of the poll tax that flew in the face of democracy and he worked to persuade more Hispanics to participate in government.

He knew that education was the magic bullet for improving a population. He devoted much of his efforts to service on the Goliad Independent School District Board of Trustees.

His inspiration—and his work on local education issues—resulted in many young people from Goliad going to prestigious colleges and universities, including the U.S. military academies.

Judge Vargas served with the Texas Department of Human Services helping those who had no money and no hope. His work with the Job Corps program helped train new workers, teaching people to help themselves. Also devoted to the rule of law, he has served as the Justice of the Peace for Goliad County and for 9 years was a Reserve Deputy for the Goliad County Sheriff's Department.

Goliad is rich in the history of both Mexico and the United States. Goliad was the birthplace of Mexican General Zaragoza who defeated the French Army, for which we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Goliad also played a significant role in the War for Texas Independence.

For his life's work in championing the better angles of our democracy and our community, it is a just reward for the Goliad Post Office to carry the name of this unique American Patriot.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1072, a bill to designate the postal facility in Goliad, Texas, as the "Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building." This bill was introduced by my good friend and colleague, Congressman RUBEN HINOJOSA.

Born in Goliad, Texas, Judge Vargas has dedicated his life to the people of Goliad, and I find it most fitting to honor his service by naming the Goliad Post Office after him.

As a first-generation American, Judge Vargas attended segregated schools because of his Mexican heritage. After attending Bee College, he volunteered and joined the Air Force as an airman. Upon leaving the Air Force, Judge Vargas worked to improve the lives of the people in the community. He was active during the civil rights movement during the 1960s and he continues to fight to increase Hispanic participation in government.

Judge Vargas served 14 years on the Goliad Independent School District Board of Trustees. While he was there, the Goliad School Board was voted one of the 10 best school boards in Texas. Judge Vargas understands the importance of developing an educated population, and because of his commitment, numerous students have gone on to prestigious colleges and universities, including the U.S. military academies.

For 28 years, Judge Vargas served as a caseworker with the Texas Department of Human Services, helping the indigent and vulnerable in a six-county region. During his tenure, he worked with the Job Corps program helping to train new workers, and with the Surplus Commodity Programs to feed hungry families.

During the past 10 years, Judge Vargas has served as the Justice of the Peace for Goliad County and for 9 years was a Reserve Deputy for the Goliad County Sheriff's Department.

Goliad is the birthplace of Mexican General Zaragoza whose defeat of the French Army is celebrated as Cinco de Mayo. In addition, Goliad has played a significant role in the War for Texas Independence. Judge Vargas has been a member of the Zaragoza Society for over 45 years, and the chairman for at least a decade. Through this work, Judge Vargas brought national recognition to Goliad's historic significance both in Mexican and Texas history.

I believe it is most fitting to honor Judge Vargas' service to the people of Goliad by naming the Goliad Post Office after him, and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1072.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL INDOOR COMFORT WEEK

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 130) recognizing the contributions of environmental systems and the technicians who install and maintain them, the quality of life of all Americans and supporting the goals and ideals of National Indoor Comfort Week, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 130

Whereas for over 100 years, our Nation has been improved by the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems that keep our buildings warm in the winter and cool in the summer;

Whereas the contractors that install heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems are comprised of small businesses located in all 50 states;

Whereas according to the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration, small businesses [represents] represent 99.7 percent of all employers and employ half of all private sector employees;

Whereas the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration industry is a growing field that continues to create jobs and grow small businesses;

Whereas indoor environmental systems have saved millions of lives and improved the health of our citizens;

Whereas because of environmental systems, food is preserved, modern medicine is possible, and children breathe easier;

Whereas the men and women who design, manufacture, install, and maintain heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems play a crucial role in our economy;

Whereas professional certified technicians save the Nation millions of dollars each year through the design and installation of more efficient equipment that provides essential comfort while reducing energy usage; and

Whereas the Air Conditioning Contractors of America have proposed designating the week of April 17-23, 2005, as National Indoor Comfort Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the contributions that environmental systems have made to the quality of life of all Americans;

(2) commends the technicians who install and maintain environmental systems;

(3) recognizes that these small business contractors have benefited from the reduced regulatory burden provided as a result of